

CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Presently amended) A method for distributing information which includes a signature, the method comprising ~~steps of~~:

generating a signatory group comprising at least a portion of a first information that comprises an object identifier and at least a portion of a second information that comprises the object identifier;

generating the signature over the signatory group;

appending the signature to one of the first information or the second information;

sending the first information over a network;

sending the second information over the network separately from the ~~step of~~ sending the first information; and

sending the signature over the network separately from at least one of the first information or the second information.

2. (Original) The method for distributing information of claim 1, wherein the first information comprises an authorization data structure and the second comprises a software object.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Presently amended) The method for distributing information of claim 1, further comprising ~~a step of~~ determining which resources a software object in the second information is entitled to interact with.

5. (Presently amended) The method for distributing information of claim 1, wherein the step of sending second information comprises ~~a step of~~ waiting a predetermined time period after the step of sending the first information before sending the second information.

6. (Original) The method for distributing information of claim 1, wherein the first information includes authorization information for an associated software object.

7. (Presently amended) The method for distributing information of claim 1, wherein ~~the step of~~ sending the first information comprises transmitting the first information over a first transmission pathway;₁

~~the step of~~ sending the second information comprises transmitting the second information over a second transmission pathway different from the first transmission pathway;₂ and

~~the step of~~ sending the signature comprises transmitting the signature over a third transmission pathway different from at least one of the first or second transmission pathways.

8. (Presently amended) A method for detecting modification of information, the method comprising ~~steps of~~:

receiving first information from a network, wherein the first information comprises an object identifier;

receiving second information from the network separately from the ~~step of~~ receiving of the first information, wherein the second information comprises the object identifier;

receiving a signature from the network separately from at least one of the first or second information, wherein the signature is integral to one of the first or second information;

generating a signatory group comprising at least a portion of the first information and at least a portion of the second information;

calculating a signature from the signatory group; and

authenticating the signature over the first and second information based on the received signature matching the calculated signature.

9. (Original) The method for detecting modification of information of claim 8, wherein the first information comprises an authorization data structure and the second information comprises a software object.

10. (Presently amended) The method for detecting modification of information of claim 8, wherein:

~~the step of~~ receiving first information comprises receiving the first information from a first transmission pathway;₁

~~the step of~~ receiving second information comprises receiving the second information from a second transmission pathway different from the first transmission pathway;₂ and

~~the step of~~ receiving a signature comprises receiving the signature from a third transmission pathway different from at least one of the first or second transmission pathways.

11. (Presently amended) The method for detecting modification of information of claim 8, further comprising ~~a step of~~:

correlating the first information to the second information; and
correlating the signature to the first information and second information.

12. (Presently amended) The method for detecting modification of information of claim 8, further comprising ~~a step of~~ determining a lifetime for which the second information is usable.

13. (Presently amended) The method for detecting modification of information of claim 8, further comprising ~~a step of~~ checking the first information for an authorization corresponding to the second information.

14. (Presently amended) A conditional access system for detecting modification of information, comprising:

an information object that comprises an object identifier;

authorization information that comprises an object identifier, wherein:

a signatory group is generated, the signatory group comprising at least a portion of the information object and at least a portion of the authorization information;

a signature is generated over the signatory group;

the information object uses a first transmission pathway to a set top box;

the authorization information uses a second transmission pathway to the set top box that is different from the first transmission pathway;

the signature uses a third transmission pathway to the set top box that is different from at least one of the first or second transmission pathways; and

wherein the signature is integral to one of the information object or the authorization information.

15. (Original) The conditional access system of claim 14, further comprising an authorization message which includes the authorization information and the signature.

16. (Original) The conditional access system of claim 15, wherein the authorization message includes a plurality of signatures.

17. (Original) The conditional access system of claim 16, wherein each of the plurality of signatures uses a different signing algorithm.

18. (Original) The conditional access system of claim 14, wherein the authorization information includes authorization tiers which pre-authorize a plurality of information objects.

19. (Original) The conditional access system of claim 14, wherein the information object is sent separately over a network from the authorization information.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Presently amended) The method for detecting modification of information of claim 8, further comprising ~~steps of~~:

determining if access of at least one of the first or second information is authorized; and

ignoring the second information if not authorized.

22. (Presently amended) The method for detecting modification of information of claim 8, further comprising ~~steps of~~:

receiving a second signature from the network separately from at least one of the first or second information; and

choosing one of the signature or the second signature for authentication over the first and second information.

23. (Previously presented) The method for distributing information of claim 1, further comprising steps of:

generating a second signatory group comprising at least a portion of the first information and at least a portion of the second information;

generating a second signature over the second signatory group; and

sending the second signature over the network separately from at least one of the first information or the second information.